



1850, and although every step was painful, and my head on my long shoulders, weighed heavily.

As I was trudging, and aching, and groaning, over every little road and fallen branch, some happened to me; one meeting me staggered, with a heavy gun on my shoulder, he discharged it right in my young blade, my life was in danger, I thought you would have taken back before that; I hurriedly caught that the old man was mortally hit; fixed, you must not come, give me that gunpowder of yours, don't be too heavy for you, for nothing but to kill savages and robbers there, but give it. 10 rods, as you have brought it this far, it may be service yet; I called out, the old man, he took my gun from me, and turned it himself to the outside, which was not recommended, and left us to follow without any further word.

We kept on our way until some time after dark, when the savages began to be associated with thins, heavy clouds, and roar of thunder; we determined to stop here for the night; and a most miserable one it was. The thunder roared, and the lightnings played round the peaks of those old hills, and the wind howling through the bushes, enough to spew a dinner, least two miles. No sooner was dinner over than I was compelled with a knife, placed our coat, and the remainder, rolling up in our blanket, lay down with gun in hand. By the last light of day, continued the savagery, "we were satisfied by the report of a rifle, and jumping up, our companion told us he had been fired upon, but whom he could not tell, and pointed in the direction from which the report came. Old David's eye was now so expanded and grew brighter, as to be whitened in a quick, hurried voice, "to your heart" and in a moment every man was gone behind his bushes. Boons had discovered his savagery, who amounted to twelve in number, about double our little band; but the inequality of numbers only made our old hunters more anxious to annihilate them. While looking in the direction in which they were seen, I heard a great noise in my ear, and saw at the same instant an Indian leap from the ground with a bowed yell. Boons's eagle eye had marked his prey; his ball was buried in the brain—the savage fell, never to rise again. Another and another was more to leap and fall, as the quick report of our rifles made us know well that death was in each whirling ball. The savages at length, seeing their numbers diminished, grew reckless of danger, and, with the most determined fury, advanced upon us. As they came on, I took my old long ducking piece to a rest, just to hear the still, hoarse voice of Boons crying to his party to lie still. I saw them advancing, whooping and yelling, and soon among their howls; for they had dropped their guns in their eagerness to lye the offsprings of a brother. One tall, athletic fellow stood alone and beholding to his comrades to charge them. I watched him. I could not root out my fear on the trigger, and my eyes to the gun—the powder caught, and the whole load was lodged in the fellow's heart. "Well done, my little mosquito boy," cried the grim voice of Boons, which now sounded like music to my ears; he knew it to be my shot, from the deep, loud report, unlike the whining, sharp, quick crack of his favorite weapon. "Well done, my little fellow; that old grampus shooter is worth his weight in gold; you'll be a man yet. Now, comrades, try your hand with the knife and tomahawk." The word was with no sooner said than executed; quick as thought, every blade was out; and as the snowy arm was drawn back to repeat his blow, the spattering, frothy blood which followed, told that one stroke had been sufficient. The combat was not long; for the war cry of, "Remember Boons," inspired every heart, and added fresh strength to every arm. I saw Tom Wilson sagged in dreadful contact with a huge, snarly savage; they grappled and fell, and rolled over and over each trying to master the other; the weapons of both had been lost or dropped in the affray, and they were now settling for a hand which lay a few feet from them. I saw the Indian lying with his knife on Wilson's breast, while the right hand was buried in the left side of his arm, and he rolled over with a groan, his arm yet raised in the effort of striking. "All were killed but one, and he it was who had, the day before, shot our comrade Boons. He was recognized by Wilson, who gave information to his companion and to those that he was the culprit. Those of our men were killed in the contact, and the remainder, quickly grasping up their rifles, followed on in the chase after him; for he had fled as soon as he saw his only surviving companion's brain beat out by Boons's bullet. He fled—"

"Why did you not shoot him as he ran?" I inquired. "Could you not at least have wounded him, among so many expert marksmen?"

"Yes, yes, that we could, for we had men who could strike a dollar a good measured hand—yards—There was Tom Jones, that I saw shoot a wild turkey's head off a hundred and fifty yards off. But Boons's orders were to take his alive, and we were afraid to shoot, afraid of killing him." When the old Indian stopped suddenly his companion, and rising from his seat, responded to do the same, while he commenced singing his savage.

"Yes," said I, being extremely interested in the story, "did you overtake him, or was he too far for you, and so escaped from your hands?"

"No, my friend, don't be impatient; I'll tell you all in time; but, no, the sun is going down, you can tell from the tops of the cedar being only illuminated by his ray, if you will just hold your horse, I will pull you over."

I did so directed, and again asked, rather impatiently, what became of the savage.

"You will please lead your horse to the little camp," said my historian, with great gravity. "I can't push the rest of the world, for his world."

I was compelled to obey him; and as soon as we were returning, I hoped he would return his story, but he seemed too busily engaged with the world to be communicative; except now and then a word from him, as he pointed out with his eye some beautiful prospect. At length, running over the whip-walk of the river, he drew up suddenly under the cliff which we had been climbing.

"Now," said he, "on there looks a very likely current here, I will rest awhile, for my old legs are not so strong as they once were."

I was glad of an opportunity to inquire again the sequel of a story in which I had taken such an interest, and laying him in the sun, as he was sitting on the side of the boat, leaning on his oar, he seemed to understand my wishes, with a significant smile, to resume—

"Yes, I know you are anxious to hear more of it, and what I was telling, I will tell you this. We followed on until we had forced the savagery, the Indians above our heads, made by this hand" pointing it out with his finger at the same time. "Then the Indian was pointed completely up, and no avenue of escape—on one side, the river being one hundred feet below; on the other, deadly Indians, determined to kill us, and he expected no more, as he had never given way. We were in every direction, seeking a path, but the menses of the Indians bearing rifle and his eye, and a determined glint in every eye. He grew desperate, and, bounding to the edge of the prope, just above our heads, he made the tremendous leap. It was a long leap, but the eye of human skill ranges far over, while our party saw the leap; we were astonished, aghast, confounded—our hearts grew pale as we watched in the boat; and, looking over, our body shuddered down. The savages, to judge by the Indians by the time he was gone, were the Indians by the time he was gone."

When the old man rose from his seat, and commenced again hanging his head.

Did the boy last?"

"Aye."

Did the boy kill him?"

"Yes."

TONY.

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